

Juveniles Learn That Poor Choices Can Lead to Christmas Behind Bars

Putnam, Indiana - December 18, 2007

Eight (8) juveniles from Rest Care Juvenile Facility located in Greencastle, Indiana and two (2) juveniles from Morgan County participated in the Horses Mouth Program held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility on Wednesday, December 17, 2007.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility began the program in 1999 affording problematic youth an opportunity to learn first hand about the realities of prison life. Coordinated by Indiana Trooper Charlie Boller, facility counselors Nora Spence and Dean Treash, Morgan and Putnam County Probation Officers and, five (5) convicted felons youth are told what's "at the end of the road" if their criminal behavior continues. "Children must understand that poor decisions can lead to incarceration, and it's our job as adult to impress upon them the importance of good decision making," stated Michael J. Osburn, Superintendent.

Offenders Craig Allbee, Randall Minniefield, Kyle Cranmer, Robert Spidiel, and Brian Butler don't pull any punches when relaying how the juveniles' lives will change if incarcerated, and, what it's like to spend a holiday behind bars. "There's nobody in here that's going to wipe your nose for you, and nobody in here is your friend," stated one of the offenders. The offenders tell how they started breaking the law at a young age, and how their behavior escalated resulting in incarceration. "There is no freedom in prison. You're told when to get up, when to eat, when to go to bed. If you don't do as you're told, you can count on being here a lot longer than you were suppose to be."

Morgan and Putnam Counties have mandated participation in the program as a stipulation for juveniles on probation, and, parents with troubled kids contact Trooper Boller or the facility to have their child participate in the program. "The program is only as good as the offenders who participate in it, and they have done a great job. Their honesty and desire to help kids is what has made the program a success. This is just another tool that we are using to persuade kids to correct their behavior before a tragic event changes their entire life. We can't save every child, but we're trying to increase the odds one child at a time," stated Trooper Boller.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.